

# INSIDE GARDNER

Your Community

January - February 2015

## Rate Changes Approved for 2015

The City Council approved rate changes for water and wastewater at their August 18, 2014 meeting. For usage in January 2015, wastewater rates will increase 4% and water rates will increase 8%. These changes will be reflected in your statement starting February 2015. Following is a summary of the rate changes by utility:

### Water Rates

Water rates will implement the graduated water rate structure and rates will be increasing 8%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$12.45 to \$13.45. The cost for the first 6,000 gallons of water will go from \$5.15 per thousand gallons to \$5.99 per thousand gallons. The average increase for a residential water customer is \$3.45 per month.

### Wastewater Rates

Wastewater rates will be increasing 4%. The monthly service charge will increase from 13.20 to \$13.73. The usage charge will go from \$8.44 per thousand gallons to \$8.78 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$2.42 per month.

### Utility Billing Customer Service

Hours: Monday through Friday  
7:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Phone: (913) 856-7535

[www.gardnerkansas.gov/utility\\_billing](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/utility_billing)



## Successful Refinancing Saves \$0.5 Million

Fiscal stewardship and maintaining City assets and infrastructure are two of the Governing Body's strategic goals.

On December 3, the City sold bonds and successfully achieved those goals by acquiring funds to make necessary improvements to the Aquatic Center and refinancing two existing KDOT loans, which saved Gardner citizens nearly one-half million dollars in interest without extending the term of the debt.

The City originally financed a portion of the Moonlight Road and intersection improvements with KDOT loans, but sought refinancing for the purpose of interest cost savings. The refinancing was "bundled" with the small amount of funding needed for the Aquatic Center improvements in order to properly maintain the citizens' assets and make the whole issue attractively marketable for investors.

The City's investment grade credit rating further enhanced attractiveness to the investors; consequently, the City received a very advantageous interest rate for the bonds, and the citizens benefitted by saving \$0.5 million.



## 2016 Budget - Citizen Forum



The City of Gardner invites you to a Citizen Forum on the 2016 Budget.

Beginning with the creation of the 2014 Budget, the City has used the best practice of Priority-Based Budgeting, also known as "budgeting for outcomes", which aligns resources to achieve the Governing Body's strategic goals. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate a deeper understanding of this practice while ascertaining citizens' priorities to assist the Governing Body and City staff in establishing the goals for the 2016 Budget.

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 to 8:30 PM

Gardner City Hall - 120 E. Main St.

## Annual Pet Registrations

All dogs and cats living in the city limits of Gardner, Kansas are required to have a city license. City licenses are issued each calendar year (January through December). Fees for 2015 are as follows:

Unneutered male dog/cat	\$14.00 ea.
Unspayed female dog/cat	\$14.00 ea.
Neutered male dog/cat	\$7.00 ea.
Spayed female dog/cat	\$7.00 ea.
Special Permit	\$55.00
Breeders Permit	\$30.00



Tags can be purchased at the Gardner Police Department at 440 E. Main Street or by mail. To purchase a City license for your animal, you will need to provide a copy of a current rabies vaccination and proof of spay/neutering. Licenses may be purchased with cash or personal check; no credit or debit cards will be accepted.

For questions or more information, please contact Animal Control Officer Jason Willis at (913) 856-7312.

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A newsletter published for the residents of  
the City of Gardner  
City Hall • 120 E. Main St.  
Gardner, KS 66030 • (913) 856-0939

# Mayor's Message to Gardner Residents



Greetings fellow citizens,

Throughout the 2014 holiday season, it provided me great joy to see so many in our community volunteer their time and donate presents or money through a variety of organizations to help everyone in Gardner feel the joy of the holiday season. Generous donations to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund allowed for contributions to the Christmas for Children program and will continue to help others in need throughout 2015.

With the new year now underway, the Governing Body and City staff, with input from our citizens, continue to plan for the future of our community. Gardner will continue to provide multiple opportunities for residents and businesses to get involved. On January 22, the City will host a citizen budget forum, allowing our community members to understand better, and get involved in the process of constructing the 2016 Budget.

In January, Gardner will begin hosting the first ever citizens academy, *GardnerYou!* This is an interactive civic and public information program that focuses on educating residents and business owners about the City of Gardner's governmental process.



I invite those of you who are interested to please find a citizen engagement opportunity. It's easy to interact with your city government; you can attend a City event, participate on social media, or call and email your elected officials. Our success as a community depends in large measure on an engaged community, and we will continue to do all we can to reach out to you, but we also depend on you for input!

Growth continues across Southwest Johnson County as we move into 2015. With the Comprehensive Plan complete and our Economic Development Strategy in its final stages, Gardner is poised for continued success. It will continue to be a group effort of our residents, local businesses, City staff and elected officials to realize that success. With your help, the promise of 2015 and the future of Gardner will bring continued success to our already outstanding community.

Best regards,

## Calendar of Meetings

Jan	1	City Hall CLOSED in observance of New Year's Day
Jan	5	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Jan	6	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting - 6:30 PM
Jan	15	Electric Utility Advisory Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Jan	19	City Hall CLOSED in observance of Martin Luther King Day
Jan	20	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM (Tuesday due to holiday)
Jan	27	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM
Feb	2	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Feb	3	Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting - 6:30 PM
Feb	5	Electric Utility Advisory Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Feb	16	City Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
Feb	24	Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 PM

## Gardner City Council

**Chris Morrow, Mayor**

913-269-8495 (Cell)  
cmorrow@gardnerkansas.gov

**Kristy Harrison, Council President**

913-884-2115 (Home)  
kharrison@gardnerkansas.gov

**Heath Freeman, Council Member**

913-908-2627 (Cell)  
hfreeman@gardnerkansas.gov

**Tory Roberts, Council Member**

913-449-5522 (Cell)  
troberts@gardnerkansas.gov

**Steve Shute, Council Vice-President**

913-938-6887 (Cell)  
sshute@gardnerkansas.gov

**Dr. Todd Winters, Council Member**

913-271-3587 (Cell)  
twinters@gardnerkansas.gov

Messages may also be left for any  
Council Member or the Mayor at  
913-856-0939

## City Management

**City Administrator**

**Cheryl Harrison-Lee**

charrison-lee@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0939

**Finance Director**

**Laura Gourley**

lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-7535

**Parks & Recreation Director**

**Jeff Stewart**

jstewart@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0936

**Acting Police Captain**

**James Belcher, Jr.**

jbelcher@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-7312

**Public Works Director**

**Brian Faust**

bfaust@gardnerkansas.gov  
913-856-0914

# Items of Note, Project Updates & Community Information

## Daddy Daughter Ball

Dads, this is a special evening just for you and your daughter. Take your girl(s) out for an evening of royal fun! Music and dancing, along with finger foods and desserts, will be the highlights of the evening. Each daughter will also receive a small souvenir as they leave. Sign-up early as this event fills up quickly!



**Date:** Saturday, February 21

**Time:** 6:30 to 8:30 PM

**Fee:** \$35 per couple, \$15 for each additional daughter

**Age:** 3 to 10 years

**Location:** Gardner Edgerton High School Commons Area

**Registration Deadline:** February 13 (limited to 100 couples)

## 2014 Safety Committee Member of the Year



Rudy Holden, Meter Reader Technician, was named the 2014 Member of the Year by the City of Gardner Safety Committee. Recipients of the award must have 100% attendance to all of the monthly Safety Committee meetings and functions, zero personal accidents or City property damage infractions, and lead and participate in safety discussions.

Rudy was recognized at the annual Safety Committee Luncheon held on Thursday, December 11th at City Hall.

## 2015 Summer Job Opportunities

Gardner Parks and Recreation is now accepting applications for the 2015 spring and summer season! Applications will be accepted through **February 2, 2015**. Applications are available at Gardner City Hall or online at [www.gardnerkansas.gov](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov).

### Return completed applications to:

City Hall  
Attn: Parks and Recreation  
120 E. Main St.  
Gardner, KS 66030

For more information, please contact the Gardner Parks and Recreation Department at (913) 856-0936.

### Available positions include:

- Aquatics Facility Manager
- Facility Assistant Manager
- Swimming Lesson Coordinator
- Lifeguards
- Aquatics Facility Attendants
- Swimming Lesson Instructors
- Aquacore Instructor
- Concession Workers
- Parks Maintenance Staff
- Aquatic Facility Maintenance Staff
- Facility Supervisors
- Soccer Officials
- Umpires
- Concession Manager



## Upcoming Parks and Recreation Activities and Events

Youth Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Kid's Wii Sports Tourney	January 24	January 19	5 to 14 years	\$10
Karate for Kids	February 2	January 26	3 to 6 years	\$40
Tiny Tigers Tae Kwon Do	February 3	January 26	3 to 6 years	\$40
Babysitting Clinic	February 12	February 3	11 to 16 years	\$55
Daddy Daughter Ball	February 21	February 13	3 to 10 years	\$35/couple
Kids Garage Sale	March 21	March 16	6 to 16 years	\$7
Spring Soccer	March 28	February 13	K to 8th grade	\$65/\$50
Micro Soccer	March 28	February 20	2 to 4 years	\$55
Youth Tennis Lessons	March 29	March 23	5 to 12 years	\$35
Player Development Program	April 2	March 27	5 to 12 years	\$65
Competitive Baseball	Late April - Mid May	February 13	U8 to U14	\$900/team
Rec. Baseball/Softball/T-Ball	Late April - End June	February 27	6 to 15 years	\$50 - \$80
Adult / Family Programs	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Men's Basketball	January 7	January 2	18 and older	\$350/team
Women's Basketball	January 11	January 2	18 and older	\$350/team
Teen and Adult Tae Kwon Do	February 2	January 26	13 and older	\$45
Bunco Babes	February 3	January 30	21 and older	\$20
Women's Tennis	March 29	March 23	18 and older	\$35
Adult Spring Softball	Early April	March 13	18 and older	\$450/team

Additional program information can be found by visiting [www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs\\_activities/](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/programs_activities/).





City of Gardner  
120 E. Main Street  
Gardner, Kansas

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Gardner, KS  
Permit No. 5

## POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030

### Gardner Welcomes New Business



The City of Gardner welcomes new business R&K Downtown Cafe and Betty Lou's Sweet Shop! A grand opening celebration was recently held on December 17. Now open daily from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM and located at 108 S. Elm St. (formerly the Downtowner).

### Happening at the Gardner Library

#### Storytime Special Feature

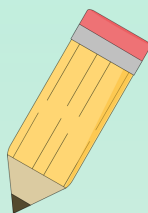
*Wednesday, January 4th and February 11th - 7:00 PM*

Enjoy a themed story night based on a popular children's picture book. After the featured story is read, there will be fun activities and crafts to go with the book. Toddler to Kindergarten. Registration is not necessary.

#### Creation Exploration: Poetry Writing

*Thursday, January 15th - 7:00 to 8:00 PM*

Bring the whole family and discover together how to use language, rhythm, pencil and paper to collect and create a book of family poems. Experimentation is encouraged, and all skill levels are welcome. Registration is not necessary.



#### Science Kicks for Birth to Six

*Wednesday, January 28th and February 25th - 7:00 to 7:30 PM*

Read, play, observe, experiment, and repeat! Make the rounds through the multiple activity stations and find something that intrigues and inspires your preschooler. Fizzy fun guaranteed! Best for ages birth to six, but everyone is welcome. Registration is not necessary.

#### Card Factory

*Saturday, February 14th - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

Drop by anytime during library hours to create a card for your valentine. All ages. Registration is not necessary.

#### Creation Exploration: Music

*Thursday, February 19th - 7:00 to 8:00 PM*

Bring the whole family and discover together how to use rhythm, rhyme, and a variety of instruments to make music. Experimentation is encouraged, and all skill levels are welcome. Registration is not necessary.



To learn more, visit the Gardner Library or [www.jocolibrary.org](http://www.jocolibrary.org).

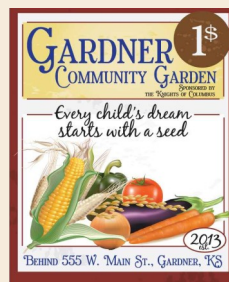
### Gardner Community Garden

Good things are growing out at the Gardner Community Garden! The Community Garden has plans to create an orchard of various fruit trees this spring and will be offering a "Sponsor a Tree" campaign.

Various classes and tutorials will be offered this spring on planting, picking, preserving, bugs and watering. The class dates will be posted on the website and Facebook page listed below.

The Gardner Farmer's Market will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to Noon beginning in May or June...more information to come!

Garden plots are available for purchase and are 15' x 23' for \$40. Additional plots are \$35. Buy 3 and get 1 free! To reserve your plot today, please email the Community Garden at the address below.



[www.gardnercommunitygarden.com](http://www.gardnercommunitygarden.com)  
[www.facebook.com/gardnercommunitygarden](https://www.facebook.com/gardnercommunitygarden)  
[gardnercommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:gardnercommunitygarden@gmail.com)

### City Debuts Decorated Snow Plows

Throughout this past Fall, students from Trail Ridge Middle School, Grand Star Elementary and Moonlight Elementary were busy designing and painting plows to be utilized this winter by the Gardner Public Works Department. The students did a fantastic job! Be on the lookout for the newly decorated plows as they clear your streets this year.



*Snow plows decorated by USD 231 students for Gardner Public Works.*